



February 6, 2007

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Mojave Water Agency's comments for the **2/20/07 BOARD MEETING**
Agenda Item #6; Consideration of approval of additional **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) implementation grants**

Dear Chair Doduc:

I want to applaud the recommendation made by staff from the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board that funding be provided to all 16 applicants in the Proposition 50 Step 2 process, instead of only the original seven that were chosen. The courage and willingness to re-evaluate the selection criteria demonstrates how effective stakeholder involvement can be, and their flexibility is appreciated.

In light of the recommendation provided at the January 23 & 31, 2007 Grant Program Scoping meetings, I'd like to lend my strong support and endorsement of the application submitted by Mojave Water Agency (MWA) in Southern California and urge you and your colleagues to please concur with your staff's and DWR's recommendation.

The four projects included in MWA's application have withstood **intense** public scrutiny by stakeholders in our region, and the stakeholders have galvanized their unwavering support. The projects will address water supply reliability, regional conservation, groundwater recharge management and habitat protection in the High Desert region of San Bernardino County for years to come.

These projects weren't selected because they would be "nice to do." They were chosen because they are vital to help protect and enhance the economic viability and quality of life in one of the fastest growing regions in the State of California. The projects are essential elements of a project portfolio that will enable MWA to provide a balanced long-term supply of water, expand the economy, protect the environment, and assure Californians a high quality of life, all of which are objectives of the California Water Plan.

I am sure that you recognize the key role that local entities play, but local funding alone will not be nearly enough for us to achieve our goals. State and federal investment in local water management projects and programs must be made to complement and support progress at the local and regional level and ensure that water is available to meet our changing needs.

I urge you to concur with staff's recommendation to fund all 16 applicants and evaluate the totality of the benefits of **all** the applicants, and please not be swayed by **one** or just a few vocal opponents.

Our region is counting on your vision and foresight.

Respectfully,

Guy W. Patterson
General Manager

GWP/bc

cc: Senator George Runner
Assembly Member Sharon Runner, 36th District